

Mr. Speaker, they failed to sign a maritime agreement; they failed to cooperate in the extradition of the hard criminal drug traffickers; they failed to bring down even one major trafficking ring in Mexico; they failed to curb corruption; and they have failed to aid our DEA agents when they put their lives at risk in that country to help stop the war on drugs.

Mr. Speaker, neighbors do not let neighbors have their young killed in the streets. I submit that Mexico is a neighbor and it has failed to take action and should not be certified by this administration now or until, in fact, it does get its act together and takes positive steps to curtail the production and the transit of drugs from that country to our country.

All we have to do is look at the youth death and the death and crime in our country as a result of the drugs. Again, the major source of these drugs is Mexico. They are coming into our country. Two million Americans behind bars are there because of a drug-related offense and most of those drugs are coming in from Mexico.

We have a skyrocketing rate of drug abuse and drug deaths among our youth, hitting our youth and our streets and our schools and our communities with cocaine deaths.

In my area of central Florida, record heroin deaths and heroin is coming in and it will soon be as cheap as cocaine or any other drug in incredible quantities from Mexico.

So we cannot certify a Nation that, indeed, is not cooperating. We cannot certify a Nation that is raining death and terror on our young people in the streets and neighborhood at a tremendous cost to our young people, a tremendous cost to our communities. The jails that are filled in this country and our citizens cannot even go to sleep at night because of the related crime and the related violence of drugs and narcotics.

So they are taking a step today and it is the wrong step. They have taken the wrong step in the past when they had a Surgeon General, Joycelyn Elders, who established the policy of "Just Say Maybe" to drugs; when we had the President tell our young people, "If I had it to do all over again, I would inhale."

Today, another fatal step in the lack of war on drugs by this administration and this President who are about to certify this country, which is the major source of violence, crime, and drugs in our Nation. We can stop it. We must stop it. We must decertify Mexico.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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tleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MADAME C.J. WALKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, since the inception of the Black History celebration, an idea that was inspired by Dr. Carver G. Woodson, the world has become acquainted with the myriad of contributions of African-American achievement.

I rise today to pay tribute to a woman, Madame C.J. Walker, who contributed to black history and to the larger picture of American history, who resided in Indiana's 10th Congressional District. The Walker Building in my district is on the Register of Historic Places. For these reasons the Postal Service honored Madame C.J. Walker last month with a commemorative stamp in the 10th District of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Madame Walker was born Sara Breedlove. She was America's first woman self-made millionaire. Overcoming a life of poverty, this orphaned daughter of slaves rose from washwoman to entrepreneur. In 1905, she developed a conditioning treatment for hair. Her pioneering hair care methods and products transformed the appearance and self-image of African-American women.

As a business woman, Madame Walker was the master of door-to-door sales through the demonstration of her products in homes, in churches, and club meetings. As an innovative chemist, she experimented with herbs, ointments and chemicals and she developed an effective product that revolutionized black hair care.

□ 1200

By 1910, when Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company was created in Indianapolis, Walker had perfected the direct marketing technique used today by companies such as Mary Kay. At the height of Madame Walker's success, the company had 3,000 workers, including sales agents, factory workers, public relations persons, marketing specialists and chemists.

As a leader and advocate for women, most of her employees were women. The company provided an alternative to the traditional domestic service jobs that had been reserved for black women, truly a visionary action before women had won the right to vote even. Furthermore, in Madame Walker's will was a provision that the company she founded always be headed by women.

As a philanthropist, Madame Walker did much to promote racial and women's equality. At home, she contributed to Flanner House in Indianapolis, Bethel AME, the Alpha Home and the Senate Avenue YMCA. On the national

level, she was an avid supporter of the NAACP, the Tuskegee Institute and the Mary McLeod Normal School. She encouraged her agents to support black philanthropic work by forming "Walker Clubs" and giving cash prizes to the clubs performing the largest amount of community charity work.

I am grateful and proud that Madame Walker left such a rich legacy for not only me and my constituents in Indianapolis but for all of America. Indeed, if there was ever a person who personified the notion of self-determination and self-help, Madame C.J. Walker was that person. At a time when society could have strictly defined Madame Walker, she was the author of her own destiny and a beacon of inspiration for African-Americans and to all Americans, and women in particular.

RONALD REAGAN RESPONSIBLE FOR A NEW FREEDOM IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. Lucas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks there has been a great deal of discussion in this body as to the legacy of our great former president, Ronald Reagan. I would like to add a short story which will serve only to enhance this well-deserved legacy.

Recently, one of my staffers was watching a television program with his 10-year-old son, David. The program's subject matter dealt with the role of the news media in various wars our Nation has been involved in down through the generations.

At one point in the program, David, who I know to always be an inquisitive lad, asked his dad what the Vietnam War was all about. And certainly that is a question that we all ask ourselves from time to time, I might add, but try explaining it to a 10-year-old.

While explaining our Nation's involvement in Vietnam to his son, my staffer referred to our country's efforts to stem the spread of Communism during that era. At the mention of the word Communism, David posed a simple yet profound question. "What's Communism, dad?"

Now, think about that, Mr. Speaker. Our generation is able to raise its children and grandchildren without the real and present fear of Communism and nuclear war with which we grew up.

My staffer appropriately responded to his son's question with a truth that he could thank Ronald Reagan for the fact that Communism is now such a failed relic of the past. And I agree with my staffer's assessment. Great strides have been made when a 10-year-old is able to live without the fear that haunted my childhood and yours.